

App. No. 10/019116
Office Action Dated May 14, 2004
Amd. Dated July 23, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 6, 12, 19-21, 27, 31, 54, 55, 67, 77, 78, 81 and 82 are hereby amended. Claims 6, 31, 54, 55, 78, 81 and 82 have been amended editorially. Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations recited in claim 11, claim 67 has been amended to include the limitations recited in claim 66, claim 77 has been amended to include the limitations recited in claim 76 and claims 19-21 and 27 have been amended to depend from amended claim 12. Claims 11, 66 and 76 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Please note claims 53, 60, 74 and 83 were canceled in the Preliminary Amendment filed on December 21, 2001. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-31, 37-52, 54-59, 61-73 and 75-82 are pending.

Applicants respectfully request that withdrawn claims 32-36 be reinstated as they depend either directly or indirectly from allowable claim 30.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-10, 12-31, 37-52, 54-59, 61-65, 67-75 and 77-82.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11, 66 and 76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shibusawa (JP 11-183932). Claims 11, 27-29, 66 and 76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kusafuka et al. (US 5,995,074). These rejections are rendered moot, as claims 11, 66 and 76 have been canceled, claim 27 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 12 and claims 28 and 29 depend from claim 27.

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Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejections. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21-23, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibusawa (JP 11-183932) in view of Kondo et al. (US 5,598,285). Claims 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibusawa (JP11-183932) in view of Nagata (JP 2-913A). These rejections are rendered moot, as claims 21 and 27 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 12, claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 21 and claim 29 depends from claim 27. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejections. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

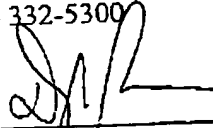
In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 23, 2004

By 
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DPM:smm